

Jewish Studies

In the College of Arts and Letters

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Faculty

Jewish studies is administered by the Modern Jewish Studies Executive Board of San Diego State University. Faculty assigned to teach courses in modern Jewish studies are drawn from the Departments of English and Comparative Literature; European Studies; History; Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages; and Religious Studies.

Director and Undergraduate Adviser: Risa Levitt Kohn (Religious Studies)

Offered by Jewish Studies

Major in modern Jewish studies with the B.A. degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Minor in Jewish studies.

The Major

Modern Jewish studies is a multidisciplinary major which provides an understanding of Jewish civilizations as the result of the interactions of Jewish culture, history, politics, and religion with other civilizations in societies where Jews have been the dominant majority population (the first two Jewish commonwealths and the modern state of Israel) and in those of the diaspora Jewish communities where Jews have been a minority group.

Students will be expected to obtain proficiency in Hebrew. They will develop an understanding of the major events in Jewish history starting with the biblical period through the centuries of diaspora to the Holocaust and the creation of the modern state of Israel. Students will be exposed to main Jewish beliefs, ideas, and traditions which have arisen in these different historical contexts. They will also become familiar with Jewish visual and literary expressions of culture. It is hoped that the study of Jewish civilizations will foster an awareness of how the Jewish experience reflects the universal dynamic of how ethnic, religious, or racial minorities interact with majority societies (i.e., discrimination and persecution, acculturation, integration, syncretism, and resistance to assimilation).

Those completing the major will be prepared for careers or further graduate training in the foreign service, overseas business, education, social services, multi-media productions, visual and literary arts, advocacy organizations, museum work, and the ministry.

Advising

All College of Arts and Letters majors are urged to consult with their department adviser as soon as possible. Students must receive major advising in the first semester they declare Modern Jewish Studies as their major and must do so no later than the first semester of their junior year.

Impacted Program

The modern Jewish studies major is an impacted program. To be admitted to the modern Jewish studies major, students must meet the following criteria:

- Complete preparation for the major;
- Complete a minimum of 60 transferable semester units;
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.

To complete the major, students must fulfill the degree requirements for the major described in the catalog in effect at the time they are accepted into the premajor at SDSU (assuming continuous enrollment).

Major Academic Plans (MAPs)

Visit <http://www.sdsu.edu/mymap> for the recommended courses needed to fulfill your major requirements. The MAPs website was created to help students navigate the course requirements for their majors and to identify which General Education course will also fulfill a major preparation course requirement.

Modern Jewish Studies Major

With the B.A. Degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences

(Major Code: 15102) (SIMS Code: 114102)

All candidates for a degree in liberal arts and sciences must complete the graduation requirements listed in the section of this catalog on "Graduation Requirements."

A minor is not required with this major.

Preparation for the Major. Jewish Studies 130 [or Humanities 130] and either Religious Studies 100 or 101 or 103. (6 units)

Language Requirement. Hebrew 101, 102, 200, and 201.

Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement. Passing the Writing Placement Assessment with a score of 10 or completing one of the approved upper division writing courses (W) with a grade of C (2.0) or better. See "Graduation Requirements" section for a complete listing of requirements.

Major. A minimum of 30 upper division units.

Culture and Society Area (9 units)

English 526. Topics in Literature of the United States: Jewish American Literature (3)

History 436. Modern Jewish History in Feature Films (3)

History 527. The Holocaust in Feature Films (3)

Russian and East European Jewish Culture (3)

History Area (9 units)

History 440. The Holocaust and Western Civilization (3)

History 474. The Middle East Since 1500 (3)

History 488. Modern Jewish History (3)

History 574. Arab-Israeli Relations, Past and Present (3)

Religion and Thought Area (9 units)

Religious Studies 301. Hebrew Bible (3)

Religious Studies 320. Judaism (3)

Religious Studies 330. Abrahamic Faiths: Shared Stories (3)

Religious Studies 373. Women and the Bible (3)

Religious Studies 581. Major Theme: Jewish and Christian Origins (3)

Electives (3 units)

Jewish Studies 495. Jewish Studies Internship (3) Cr/NC

Jewish Studies 496. Topics in Jewish Studies (1-3)

(May be repeated with new content)

Hebrew 496. Topics in Hebraic Studies (1-4) (May be repeated with new content) (Maximum credit eight units)

Hebrew 499. Special Study (1-3) (Maximum credit six units)

A maximum of six units outside of Jewish Studies may be counted toward the major with the approval of the adviser. Students may not double count courses taken for the required and core areas for elective use and vice versa.

Jewish Studies Minor

(SIMS Code: 114103)

Dr. Risa Levitt Kohn, Department of Religious Studies, is adviser for this minor.

The Jewish studies minor provides a balanced interdisciplinary study of Jewish contributions to world culture and history. It serves the needs of students who plan to (1) specialize in disciplines in which an understanding of Jewish contributions is essential, or (2) follow careers in teaching, community service, foreign service, or the ministry. Students seeking a minor in Jewish studies may want to consider combining it with a major in Social Science with an emphasis in Islamic and Arabic Studies. Many courses relevant to this major are available in anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, and sociology.

The minor consists of a minimum of 19-20 units to include seven to eight units selected from Jewish Studies 130 [or Humanities 130] or Religious Studies 100, 101, or 103; and Hebrew 101, 102, 200, or 201; and 12 upper division units selected from Jewish Studies 495, 496; Hebrew 496; History 436, 440, 488, 527, 574; Religious Studies 301, 320, 330, 581; and other relevant courses may be counted as part of the 12 upper division units taken with the approval of the adviser for Jewish Studies.

Courses in the minor may not be counted toward the major, but may be used to satisfy preparation for the major and general education requirements, if applicable. A minimum of six upper division units must be completed in residence at San Diego State University.

Courses (JS)

Refer to Courses and Curricula and University Policies sections of this catalog for explanation of the course numbering system, unit or credit hour, prerequisites, and related information.

LOWER DIVISION COURSES

JS 130. The Jewish Heritage (3) [GE] **(Same course as Humanities 130)**

Hebraic and Jewish influences on the arts, literature, philosophy, and religion of Western civilization.

JS 296. Topics in Jewish Studies (1-3)

Selected topics. May be repeated with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree.

UPPER DIVISION COURSES (Intended for Undergraduates)

JS 495. Jewish Studies Internship (3) Cr/NC

Six hours per week at agency and one hour every other week with SDSU supervising faculty member.

Prerequisites: Upper division status and consent of supervising instructor.

Internship with local Jewish service agencies and non-profit organizations. Work to be done under direction of activity supervisor and SDSU instructor. Written project report and internship conferences required every other week with SDSU faculty adviser. Maximum credit six units.

JS 496. Topics in Jewish Studies (1-3)

Prerequisite: Upper division status.

Selected topics. May be repeated with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree.
